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# Proceedings of the Botanical Club, A. A. A. S., Madison Meeting, August 18-22, 1893.

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 18.

In the absence of the President, Prof. W. P. Wilson, the meeting was opened by the Vice-President, Prof. W. A. Kellerman.

In the absence of the Secretary, Prof. W. A. McBride, his office was filled by the election of Mr. W. T. Swingle.

The report of the Committee on Nomenclature, appointed at the Rochester meeting of 1892 to prepare a check-list of the flowering and fern plants of Northeastern North America, was made by Prof. N. L. Britton, Chairman. The list was presented nearly complete for printing. Discussion of the report occupied the remainder of the day's session. The report was received, and the following recommendations of the committee were adopted:

1. The amendment of Section III. of the Rochester Code of Nomenclature by striking out all after the word "retained."

This recommendation is based on the mature judgment of the committee, after watching for a year the progress of the demand for a rule which shall admit no exceptions whatever and effect the closest approximation to the immutability of the specific name.

This action authorizes the use of specific names identical with the generic, such as *Catalpa Catalpa*, and preserves the immutability of the specific name, in whatever genus it is first published, even if the same binomial has been published between the time of the first publication of the species and its transfer to the accepted genus, as for example:

SISYMBRIUM PINNATUM (Walt.) Greene, Bull. Cal. Acad. ii. 39 (1887).
*Erysimum pinnatum*, Walt. Fl. Car. 174 (1788).
*Sisymbrium canescens*, Nutt., Gen. ii. 68 (1818); not *Sisymbrium pinnatum*, Barn. in Gay. Fl. Chil. i. 125 (1845), which is to receive another name.

2. That the general sequence of natural orders as taken up in Engler and Prantl's "Natürliche Pflanzenfamilien" be adopted.

The check-list will therefore begin with the Pteridophyta, followed consecutively by the Gymnospermæ, Monocotylodonæ and Dicotylodonæ.

3. That in determining the name of a genus or species to which two or more names have been given by an author in the same volume or on the same page of a volume, precedence shall decide.

*Tissa* stands on the same page as *Buda* in Adanson's "Familles des Plantes," but has precedence of a few lines, and is to be adopted.

### MONDAY, AUGUST 21.

The report of the Treasurer was received and accepted. It indicated a deficit of $6.16, which was made up by voluntary contributions. Prof. A. S. Hitchcock and Dr. Erwin F. Smith were appointed a committee to nominate officers for the next meeting of the Club.

Discussion of the remainder of the report by the committee on Nomenclature was postponed until Tuesday, and the matter was referred to the committee for reconsideration. It consisted of recommendations relative to the time and method of publication of the list and to the maintenance of the original name in case of plants first published as varieties but subsequently elevated to species, and of plants first published as species but subsequently reduced to varieties.

Mrs. Britton read a paper on "The Genus *Bruchia* in North America," illustrated by specimens and drawings. The paper will be published in a future issue of the BULLETIN.

Mrs. Britton remarked also on the necessity of the examination of types of critical species in the preparation of monographs or other works of reference. Prof. Greene alluded to the method of certification of types and duplicate types adopted by him, by the statement of the place of publication on the labels. Miss Harrison remarked on the identification of types in the National Herbarium.

Prof. Kellerman stated that the original drawings of the plates of Sullivant's "Icones Muscorum," together with many of the specimens used in executing these drawings, had recently been incorporated with the bryological collections of the Ohio State University.

Prof. A. S. Hitchcock exhibited specimens of the recently-described *Ampelopsis quinquefolia*, var. *vitacea*, Knerr., and remarked on the relationship of the plant to the Virginia Creeper. He demonstrated the differences of leaves, tendrils, inflorescences and canes, remarked on the differences in time of blooming, and maintained that they are specifically distinct.

Prof. J. C. Arthur exhibited and described a new centrifugal machine for physiological investigations.

A paper by Mr. D. T. MacDougal, on "The Intertwining of Tendrils," was read by Dr. J. C. Arthur. The plant most studied in this investigation was *Micrampelis lobata.*

Mrs. Britton described the Jæger Moss Herbarium recently acquired by Columbia College. An account of this collection is published in the last number of the BULLETIN.

Prof. Kellerman alluded to the Ohio State Forestry exhibit at Chicago, and stated that *Ilex opaca,* hitherto not certainly known from that State, had been found by him on Sim's Creek, Lawrence county, near the Ohio River; he doubted the occurrence of *Magnolia tripetala* in the State, although it had been reported, and remarked that all the localities given for *Chamæcyparis thyoides* had yielded only *Thuja occidentalis. Polypodium polypodioides* had been found on rocks in Scioto county.

Prof. A. S. Hitchcock described the pollination of *Œnothera Missouriensis.* This plant was in flower in the vicinity of Manhattan, Kansas, between May 23d and June 6th. The flower opens in the latter part of the afternoon, but the stigmas may protrude from the bud as early as 2 p. m. The calyx tube is narrow and about 11 centimeters long, and is as much as half filled with nectar. Just before 8 p. m. the flowers were abundantly visited by a sphinx-moth (*Deilephila lineata*). An individual would support itself above the expanded flower, insert its proboscis, which usually measures about 45 mm., and push its head as far into the throat as possible. Excepting ants, no other insects were observed to visit the flowers, and the visits of the moths ceased at dark. Only the uppermost portion of the nectar is obtained by the insect, but the latter is detained in the flower by its endeavor to secure more. It would seem that the flower was adapted to a moth with a longer proboscis, but none are known to occur in the vicinity except the potato moth.

Prof. Hitchcock also described the pollination of *Pentstemon Cobæa.*

Dr. Erwin F. Smith called attention to the fact that a tumor, not due to nematodes, was becoming increasingly prevalent in the United States on the roots of peaches, almonds and other stone fruits. These tumors vary in size from that of a pea to a man's fist. Nursery stock is especially subject to attack, and the roots of a small tree may often bear half a dozen, nearly the whole energy of the plant being used up by these abnormal growths. The disease occurs from New Jersey to Georgia and west through Michigan and Missouri to Arizona and California. It is now most prevalent on the Pacific Coast, where its depredations are serious and increasing every year. A microscopic examination of the inner tissues of fresh young tumors has not shown the presence of animal or vegetable parasites, and their cause is still a mystery. The most suggestive hypothesis is that they may be caused by external irritation, *i. e.*, to some parasite acting from without. It is a subject becoming economically more and more important, and will soon demand critical study by some plant pathologist.

Prof. D. H. Campbell remarked on a preliminary study of the prothallium in Ophioglossaceæ, and exhibited this organ in *Botrychium Virginianum.*

Prof. Bessey read a paper on "The Use of Personal Names in Designating Species." He strongly condemned the practice. Prof. Britton called attention to the propriety of the use of personal adjectives in genera of a very large number of species, where all the available descriptive adjectives have been exhausted, and also of the valuable historical feature in the association of the first collector's name with a species. Dr. A. B. Seymour approved the position taken by Dr. Bessey. Prof. Coulter favored the use of personal names for the reasons advanced by Dr. Britton and on the ground that they were conducive to stability.

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 22.

Prof. J. C. Arthur exhibited and described a new form of registering auxanometer.

Mr. W. T. Swingle read a paper on "The Southernmost Botanical Laboratory of the United States." He described the Subtropical Laboratory of the Division of Vegetable Pathology, United States Department of Agriculture, established at Eustis, Florida. The building has been erected by the citizens of Eustis, is 46 feet long and 34 feet wide and contains six rooms, one of them a visitor's laboratory, which is provided for the use of students not connected with the institution. There is also an experimental garden of one and one-half acres. The Library consists of about 1,000 volumes and 1,000 pamphlets, and all the more important botanical serials are received.

Mr. Swingle also exhibited and described a new Florida palm, related to *Sabal Palmetto* and known as the Etonia palm. He called especial attention to the fact that Florida still contains a large number of new or imperfectly known species of plants.

Prof. Byron D. Halsted described a new species of *Exobasidium*, *E. Peckii*, occurring on *Andromeda Mariana* and causing the enlargement and modification of its flowers. He also showed specimens of *Rhamphospora Nymphecæ*, an Indian fungus now found on water-lily leaves in America, of a *Phyllosticta* following insect depredations and an Ascomycete on *Pistia stratiotes*.

Mrs. Britton remarked on some of the more interesting mosses collected on Saturday's trip to the dells of the Wisconsin River.

Mr. A. B. Seymour read a paper on "The Synonymy of *Valsa stellulata* and its Synonymical Allies."

He also exhibited copies of a dichotomous key to the lichen genus *Cladonia*, arranged by Dr. F. Le Roy Sargent.

A paper by Mr. S. A. Beach, "Some Observations on Black Knot," was read by Dr. B. D. Halsted and discussed by Prof. W. H. Brewer and Prof. H. L. Bolley. The infection was noticed as much worse adjoining a row of old and badly infested plum trees. Proof was also adduced that infection must have taken place a year previous to the appearance of the disease.

The following papers were read by title:

"Sand Dune Weeds," by L. H. Bailey.

"Propagation of *Ranunculus delphinifolius* by Runners," by W. W. Rowlee.

"Some Notes on the Germination of the Spores of *Enteridium Rozeanum*," by Elias J. Durand.

"Herbarium Entomology," by C. V. Riley.

"*Yucca* Pollination," by C. V. Riley.

"Notes on a hexenbesen of *Rubus*," by B. T. Galloway.

"The Falling of Pine Leaves," by B. T. Galloway.

"Some Methods employed in the Investigation of parasitic Fungi and other Organisms," by B. T. Galloway.

The committee appointed at the Rochester meeting to consider and report on the advisability of forming a national botanical society presented a majority report disapproving the formation of such an organization at the present time, and Prof. C. R. Barnes presented a minority report recommending its immediate establishment by the selection by the Club of a committee of ten who shall select fifteen others, these twenty-five to be the charter members of the society. The minority report was accepted, and a committee of ten selected by ballot.

The Committee on Nomenclature was authorized to proceed with the publication of the check-list, matters concerning it not determined by the Club were referred to the committee with power, and the committee increased to nine members by the appointment of Professors Edward L. Greene and Wm. Trelease.

Officers for the next meeting were elected as follows: President, Prof. Douglas H. Campbell; Vice President, Prof. Daniel C. Eaton; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. W. T. Swingle.

N. L. BRITTON.

## Titles of Papers read before the Section of Botany, A. A. A. S., Madison Meeting, August, 1893.

Photography as an Instrument for recording the microscopic Characters of Micro-organisms in artificial Cultures, by G. F. Atkinson.

Symbiosis in the Roots of Ophioglossaceæ, by G. F. Atkinson.

Observations on a Rust affecting the Leaves of the Jersey or Scrub Pine, by B. T. Galloway.

Prophylla of Gramineæ, by W. J. Beal.

A new injection Needle for the Study of the Lower Plants, by J. Christian Bay.

On the Food of Green Plants, by Charles R. Barnes.

Results of some recent Work on Rust of Wheat, by B. T. Galloway.